A

LETTER

TO A

FRIEND:

BEING AN

Historical Account

OF

The Affairs of HUNGARY:

More particularly relating to

BUDA,

And how Treacherously it was Surpized

By Solyman the Magnificent

From the CHRISTIANS, *Anno* 1541.

AS ALSO,

An Account of the late Siege,

ANNO 1684.

Entred according to ORDER.

THat I might not seem to put a greater value on my Trouble than your Satisfaction, I prevent being further importuned, by sending you such a Relation of *Buda*, that may perhaps leave you as little sollicitous after the Miscarriages therein, as fully satisfied in the Event. I will not detain you with unnecessary Particulars of what is past, longer than to put into your hand the Clue that must guide you to the present Conjunctures. I reach therefore no further than the year 1526. when the Royal Line of the Kingdom of *Hungary* was extinct in the person of King *Lewis*; and this by the counsel and rashness of a Priest, who was not onely made General of the Royal Army, but precipitated that King to engage with *Solyman* the Magnificent, in so unequal a Battel, as 30000 to 250000 men.

And herein I would have you take notice of the general Dissatisfaction of the Nobility, who

thought it ſtrange to take their Commands from one whom, though they might allow qualified to give Rules in a Convent, they thought not fit to give Order in a Royal Army, or lead a Flock to the Wolf of the Eaſt. And further, that the Engagement with *Solyman* was carried on by the aforeſaid Prelate, without the approbation of the reſt of the Nobility, who would have perſwaded the young King to have deferred it till the coming up of the reſt of his Forces, which were ſufficient, and in their way to his reinforcement. The end of this unfortunate Prince raiſed two Crown'd Heads, and a Civil War in *Hungary*, between *Ferdinand* and *John Zapulio*. *Ferdinand* could not bear with half an Empire; and *John* could be contented to be a King, though Tributary. The former hath recourſe to *Charles* the Fifth, the latter to the *Ottoman* Port. But after they had both ſufficiently wearied themſelves, and haraſſed their Subjects, they could diſpenſe with the Rivalty, and content themſelves with their Poſſeſſions. During this Conteſt, it comes in to ſpeak ſomething of *Buda*; and to tell you, that *Solyman* took the ſame from the Imperialiſts, and re-inſtated King *John* therein, as well as in his Kingdoms, making himſelf Arbiter of the differences between the two Chriſtian Princes. In reſtoring King *John*, *Solyman* did like a magnificent Protector; but after the death of King *John*, that he ſurprized it by Treachery, he ſhewed the other ſide of the Medal.

For *Solyman* after the deceaſe of King *John*, viz. in the year 1541, entred *Hungary* with a Formidable Army; and coming before *Buda*, ſent to complement the Queen (Wife of the late King *John*) on the part of himſelf and his two Sons *Selin*, and *Bajazet*, whom the Sultan had brought with him. He deſired alſo to ſee his Pupil (ſon of the late King *John*) whom he had taken into his protection. The young Prince with an honourable Equipage, was ſent to the Camp, accompanied with the principal Nobility of the Kingdom. *Solyman* cauſed a ſumptuous Banquet to be prepared for the Noblemen; and in the mean time ſending back the young Prince to the Queen his Mother, attended under pretence of honouring him, with many Officers of the *Ottoman* Army, who in a careleſs manner ſeemed to enter the City, more out of curioſity to ſee, than to ſeize the ſame, found no difficulty in ſecuring the Gates and principal places thereof. Whilſt this part was acting in the City, the Council being called in the Camp, 'twas propoſed to ſend the Queen to *Poland*, and the young Prince to *Conſtantinople*, to be bred up in the Mahometan Religion: to take *Hungary* a Province of the *Ottoman* Empire; to cut of the Nobility, to ſpare the common people to cultivate the Lands, and leave a ſufficient Body of Horſe and Foot on the Confines for the guarding of the Kingdom: But *Solyman* would not conſent hereto; ſaying, that this *Hungarian* Horſe at firſt ought to be treated with fair means and eaſie Acoutrements, by degrees making the uſage harder, till ſuch time as the maſtery were gained. The Janizaries being now maſters of *Buda*, the Queen was told, that the Sultan intended with his own Forces to ſecure the City from the attempts of *Ferdinand*, till ſuch time as the young Prince was come to full age. That ſhe muſt repair to the Territories of *Tranſylvania*; and that for her Aſſiſtant in the Government, was appointed the Biſhop of *Waradine*, the ſame perſon that was Tutor to the late King her Husband, and Treaſurer of the Kingdom.

The Nobility, that expected their Banquet would end in bloud, and their Heads to compleat the laſt Act of this Tragedy, at length by the Queens intercellion, got their Liberty of *Solyman*, who having well Garriſon'd the place, and left ſtrong Guards on the Frontiers, returned to *Conſtantinople*.

Thus did this great City of *Buda*, Metropolis of *Hungary*, by changing its Maſter, in an inſtant loſe its Countenance and Luſtre. The Nobility were no longer to be found there, but filled with Souldiers and violence: Liberty and Property became Servitude and Want. The Chriſtian Religion was now by ſufferance; the Churches were converted to Moſques, *&c.* And if this be the fruit of Protection, I am to ſeek for a Species of Oppreſſion.

The Kingdom being thus divided between *Solyman* and *Ferdinand*, could not long continue in any ſetled poſture; for the former was ſtill encroaching; and *Charles* the Fifth, who had no genius to defend *Hungary*, though his Brothers Country, and the Bulwark of *Germany*, &c. was driving on his unfortunate attempts on *Algiers* and *Barbary*, making no account of the preſervation of his own, whilſt all the World were of opinion, 'twere better to have defended *Hungary*, than to have conquered all *Africa*. However the ill ſucceſs at *Algiers*, cauſed in the year 1547, *October* 7. a Truce between *Charles Ferdinand* and *Solyman*, for Five years, paying Thirty thouſand *Hungarian* (Ducats) yearly Tribute for what *Ferdinand* poſſeſſed in *Hungary*.

The Queen, whom *Solyman*, upon the ſurprize of *Buda*, had ſent to *Tranſylvania*, made onely the the figure of a Queen there; for *George* the Biſhop of *Waradine*, afterwards Cardinal, was her Governour: And as another Prieſt was the ruine of *Hungary*, ſo was this of *Tranſylvania*. For the Queen, oppreſt by the Monk, makes application to *Solyman*, who eſpouſed her Intereſt; and *Ferdinand* that of the Prelate: And betwixt the Artifices and force of theſe two, the Queen was made unwillingly to reſign; taking as an Equivalent from *Ferdinand* upon *Sileſia* Twenty five thouſand Crowns Revenue yearly for the young Prince *John Sygiſmund* her ſon; and Fifty thouſand for her Dowry: And that the Prince ſhould marry the Daughter of *Ferdinand*.

The Queen diſguſted, ſoon after makes her Applications to *Solyman* then in *Perſia*; who ordered *Meemet* Baſſa to put the Queen in poſſeſſion of the

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Province: Which being done, and things being not so well with *Ferdinand* as not to suspect the Cardinal, there was an Order sent, *That they should do with the Cardinal what they thought fit for the acquiring and keeping the possession of* Transylvania; which was taken for a Sentence of Death; upon which the Cardinal was stobbed: And for this Murther did the Pope excommunicate *Ferdinand*, though afterwards absolved: and *Transylvania* wholly subject to him, *Anno* 1552.

The Queen once more sued for Protection of *Solyman*; and after Four years being out of Possession, regains the Principality for her son *John Sygismund*, by the beating out of *Ferdinand*. She died *Anno* 1554.

Charles the Fifth resigning; and *Ferdinand* the First being made Emperour, he accompanied his Son *Maximilian* the Second to the Dyet of *Hungary*, where he was elected King in *September*, 1562. though not without a bustle; of which I shall say something.

At the Dyet there was a Question started about the Election: For *Ferdinand* insisted on it, That according to the Instrument stipulated between him and *Ladislaus*, (Father of King *Lewis*) there was nothing more to be done, but to declare his Son King; because Election ought to have no place, but upon the failure of the *Austrian* Line.

But the *Hungarians* stood upon it, that those Agreements were obtained by violence on the part of *Ladislaus*; and covetousness on the part of the Palatine of that time, who was gained with Presents; so that his Assent was not sufficient to binde the Universality of the Kingdom, who always reserve to its self a free will to chuse its King: As also since that the Election might not be awed by any Authority whatsoever, it hath been decreed since the year 1498. That to the Dyet design'd for the Royal Creation, there shall intervene no Ministers of any Forrein Prince; so that if there should happen a Consent, that *Maximilian* should be their King, they will wholly have it by Election, and not by Declaration; which Election hath all along to our days continued, notwithstanding the Instruments and Compacts as before registred.

Ferdinand the First died *Anno* 1564, at the 61 year of his age; he wanted no will but help to deliver his Country from the Turks. *Maximilian* was of quiet Inclinations, yet upon his coming in a Council was called; wherein, the Truce being out, they were to think of renewing the Peace, or of making a War. But this was diverted with the Turks, upon the Invasion of *John Sygismund* Prince of *Transylvania*, who following the steps of his Father adhered to the Port after the death of *Ferdinand*. But being too weak for *Maximilian*, he called in the Turk, *Anno* 1566. and at the Siege of *Zighet Solyman* died before the taking thereof, and the brave *Nicholas Serini* was killed, for which *Maximilian* was blamed. But the next year was a Peace of eight years made between *Maximilian*, *Selin* the Second, and *John Sygismund*, who soon after died, being the last of the Line of *Sapulia*; to the great satisfaction of the Zealous, who were glad to see a Race that had its Center in *Constantinople* rooted out.

Now since there depends much on this Peace, I shall be short.

They were reciprocally to forget Injuries.

That laying aside the Title of King, taken upon the account of being born a King, he should be contented with that of Serene Prince.

That the Upper Transylvania *should be enjoyed by* Sygismund *by an Hereditary Title; and the Lower during his Life only, after which it should pass to* Cæsar.

That if by the Turks he should be driven out of Transylvania, *he should repair to* Silesia *to the Castle of* Opolia.

That if the Turks should attack the Province, Maximilian *should come to his assistance.*

That if Sygismund *should die without Issue, there should be chosen by the States of* Transylvania *another Prince inseperably united to the party of the House of* Austria.

These Capitulations were also ratified by the *Transylvanians*, but to be kept from the Turks, *&c.* a miserable condition for Christian Princes.

Besides the *Hungarian* Pension, little hapned till the taking of *Copan* by *Serini* from the Turks, *Anno* 1588. But this was disowned by *Maximilian*. Something more I would have said, but that the bulk of my Letter is already too big. I shall therefore lay aside all other things, and conclude with the Affairs of *Hungary* and *Buda* as they now stand.

The early Success of the Campaign gave the Imperialists hopes that nothing would stand before them: For by the latter end of *June* they had routed the Turkish Army near *Vaccia*. In the beginning of *July* they had taken *Pest* and the Bridge of Boats. By the middle of *July* had beaten the Turkish Camp that lay about *Buda* and taken the Old Town; and went so on with their Mines, Works, *&c.* that they doubted no but to be Masters of the place in a very short time.

That in *July* they reckoned their Forces Forty thousand men, their Army in a flourishing condition. That the Walls and Castles of the Town were old and irregular. That they were lodged in the upper Ditch. That if *Lesbley* should joyn them they would be Fifty thousand strong. That they had taken *Gerarsberg*, from whence they did very much incommode the Besieged, Nay, so confident were they of mastering the place, that on *August* the 9th 'twas reported that it was taken by Assault: For that there were differences between the Officers of the Garrison; that they wanted all manner of Necessaries and Provision, that the Garrison diminished.

That *July* 22th, the Duke of *Lorain* had beaten the Turkish Camp that was under the Seraglio quite

quier, for the Relief of *Buda*. That the Army was Twenty five thouſand ſtrong before the arrival of the Duke of *Bavaria*'s Forces, who were ſome, about the middle of *September* at *Buda*; others, not till towards the latter end. But now of a ſudden the faces of things began to alter: For on the 23th of *September* the Turks are the Agreſſors, and aſſault the Imperial Camp. The Salleys are often and ſtrong, the wet weather incommoded the Chriſtians; and though they have had Recrits of Men and Proviſions at times, yet they have not come ſeaſonable, that the Army decayed faſter than ſupplied. And though on the 12th of *October* a general Aſſault be intended, yet the Seraſquier drawing nearer the Imperial Camp, maketh other meaſures, the Aſſault is put off to a further time, hoping that Neceſſity would reduce the place, or elſe the Seraſquier remove further from them.

But whilſt every one had their eyes on the Seraſquier, judging the Relief would come from that ſide of the *Danube*, on the 24th of *October*, the Baſſa of *Agria*, from *Peſt*-ſide, ſupplied the Town with Men, Proviſions, and Neceſſaries: And on the 30 of *October*, the Dukes of *Lorain* and *Bavaria* ſhewed their Conduct, not enough to be admired, in bringing off an Army ſafe under ſuch Circumſtances, from among ſuch bad Neighbours: For it was as if both parties were contented to let each other draw off to take breath againſt another Encounter. Sir, this is at preſent all I have to trouble you with. I am

November 14. 1684.

Yours, *&c.*

A. B.

FINIS.

LONDON: Printed for *W. Davis* in *Amen-corner*.

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thought it ſtrange to take their Commands from one whom, though they might allow qualified to give Rules in a Convent, they thought not fit to give Order in a Royal Army, or lead a Flock to the Wolf of the Eaſt. And further, that the Engagement with *Solyman* was carried on by the aforeſaid Prelate, without the approbation of the reſt of the Nobility, who would have perſwaded the young King to have deferred it till the coming up of the reſt of his Forces, which were ſufficient, and in their way to his reinforcement. The end of this unfortunate Prince raiſed two Crown'd Heads, and a Civil War in *Hungary*, between *Ferdinand* and *John Zapulio*. *Ferdinand* could not bear with half an Empire; and *John* could be contented to be a King, though Tributary. The former hath recourſe to *Charles* the Fifth, the latter to the *Ottoman* Port. But after they had both ſufficiently wearied themſelves, and haraſſed their Subjects, they could diſpenſe with the Rivalty, and content themſelves with their Poſſeſſions. During this Conteſt, it comes in to ſpeak ſomething of *Buda*; and to tell you, that *Solyman* took the ſame from the Imperialiſts, and re-inſtated King *John* therein, as well as in his Kingdoms, making himſelf Arbiter of the differences between the two Chriſtian Princes. In reſtoring King *John*, *Solyman* did like a magnificent Protector; but after the death of King *John*, that he ſurprized it by Treachery, he ſhewed the other ſide of the Medal.

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Charles the Fifth reſigning; and *Ferdinand* the Firſt being made Emperour, he accompanied his Son *Maximilian* the Second to the Dyet of *Hungary*, where he was elected King in *September*, 1562. though not without a buſtle; of which I ſhall ſay ſomething.

At the Dyet there was a Queſtion ſtarted about the Election: For *Ferdinand* inſiſted on it, That according to the Inſtrument ſtipulated between him and *Ladiſlaus*, (Father of King *Lewis*) there was nothing more to be done, but to declare his Son King; becauſe Election ought to have no place, but upon the failure of the *Auſtrian* Line.

But the *Hungarians* ſtood upon it, that thoſe Agreements were obtained by violence on the part of *Ladiſlaus*; and covetouſneſs on the part of the Palatine of that time, who was gained with Preſents; ſo that his Aſſent was not ſufficient to binde the Univerſality of the Kingdom, who always reſerve to its ſelf a free will to chuſe its King: As alſo ſince that the Election might not be awed by any Authority whatſoever, it hath been decreed ſince the year 1498. That to the Dyet deſign'd for the Royal Creation, there ſhall intervene no Miniſters of any Forrein Prince; ſo that if there ſhould happen a Conſent, that *Maximilian* ſhould be their King, they will wholly have it by Election, and not by Declaration; which Election hath all along to our days continued, notwithſtanding the Inſtruments and Compacts as before regiſtred.

Ferdinand the Firſt died *Anno* 1564, at the 61 year of his age; he wanted no will but help to deliver his Country from the Turks. *Maximilian* was of quiet Inclinations, yet upon his coming in a Council was called; wherein, the Truce being out, they were to think of renewing the Peace, or of making a War. But this was diverted with the Turks, upon the Invaſion of *John Syſmund* Prince of *Tranſylvania*, who following the ſteps of his Father adhered to the Port after the death of *Ferdinand*. But being too weak for *Maximilian*, he called in the Turk, *Anno* 1566. and the Siege of *Zighet Solyman* died before the taking thereof, and the brave *Nicholas Serini* was killed, for which *Maximilian* was blamed. But the next year was a Peace of eight years made between *Maximilian*, *Selin* the Second, and *John Sygiſmund*, who ſoon after died, being the laſt of the Line of *Sapulia*, to the great ſatisfaction of the Zealous, who were glad to ſee a Race that had its Center in *Conſtantinople* rooted out.

Now ſince there depends much on this Peace, I ſhall be ſhort.

They were reciprocally to forget Injuries.

That laying aſide the Title of King, taken upon the account of being born a King, he ſhould be contented with that of Serene Prince.

That the Upper Tranſylvania *ſhould be enjoyed by* Sygiſmund *by an Hereditary Title; and the Lower during his Life only, after which it ſhould paſs to* Cæſar.

That if by the Turks he ſhould be driven out of Tranſylvania, *he ſhould repair to* Sileſia *to the Caſtle of* Opolia.

That if the Turks ſhould attack the Province, Maximilian *ſhould come to his aſſiſtance.*

That if Sygismund *ſhould die without Iſſue, there ſhould be choſen by the States of* Tranſylvania *another Prince inſeperably united to the party of the Houſe of* Auſtria.

Theſe Capitulations were alſo ratified by the *Tranſylvanians*, but to be kept from the Turks, *&c.* a miſerable condition for Chriſtian Princes.

Beſides the *Hungarian* Penſion, little hapned till the taking of *Copan* by *Serini* from the Turks, *Anno* 1588. But this was diſowned by *Maximilian*. Something more I would have ſaid, but that the bulk of my Letter is already too big; I ſhall therefore lay aſide all other things, and conclude with the Affairs of *Hungary* and *Buda* as they now ſtand.

The early Succeſs of the Campaign gave the Imperialiſts hopes that nothing would ſtand before them: For by the latter end of *June* they had routed the Turkiſh Army near *Vaccia*. In the beginning of *July* they had taken *Peſt* and the Bridge of Boats. By the middle of *July* had beaten the Turkiſh Camp that lay about *Buda*, and taken the Old Town; and went ſo on with their Mines, Works, *&c.* that they doubted not but to be Maſters of the place in a very ſhort time.

That in *July* they reckoned their Forces Forty thouſand men, their Army in a flouriſhing condition. That the Walls and Caſtles of the Town were old and irregular. That they were lodged in the upper Ditch. That if *Leſhley* ſhould joyn them they would be Fifty thouſand ſtrong. That they had taken *Gerarsberg*, from whence they did very much incommode the Beſieged, Nay, ſo confident were they of maſtering the place, that on *Auguſt* the 9th 'twas reported that it was taken by Aſſault: For that there were differences between the Officers of the Garriſon; that they wanted all manner of Neceſſaries and Proviſions, that the Garriſon diminiſhed.

That *July* 22th, the Duke of *Lorain* had beaten the Turkiſh Camp that was under the Seraſquier,

quier, for the Relief of *Buda*. That the Army was Twenty five thouſand ſtrong before the arrival of the Duke of *Bavaria*'s Forces, who were ſome, about the middle of *September* at *Buda*; others, not till towards the latter end. But now of a ſudden the faces of things began to alter: For on the 23th of *September* the Turks are the Agreſſors, and aſſault the Imperial Camp. The Salleys are often and ſtrong, the wet weather incommoded the Chriſtians; and though they have had Recrits of Men and Proviſions at times, yet they have not come ſeaſonable, that the Army decayed faſter than ſupplied. And though on the 12th of *October* a general Aſſault be intended, yet the Seraſquier drawing nearer the Imperial Camp, maketh other meaſures, the Aſſault is put off to a further time, hoping that Neceſſity would reduce the place, or elſe the Seraſquier remove further from them.

But whilſt every one had their eyes on the Seraſquier, judging the Relief would come from that ſide of the *Danube*, on the 24th of *October*, the Baſſa of *Agria*, from *Peſt*-ſide, ſupplied the Town with Men, Proviſions, and Neceſſaries: And on the 30 of *October*, the Dukes of *Lorain* and *Bavaria* ſhewed their Conduct, not enough to be admired, in bringing off an Army ſafe under ſuch Circumſtances, from among ſuch bad Neighbours: For it was as if both parties were contented to let each other draw off to take breath againſt another Encounter. Sir, this is at preſent all I have to trouble you with. I am

November 14. 1684.

Yours, *&c.*

A. B.

BIBLIOTHECA·ROMANA·

FINIS.

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